

profit maie take amonge his tenaunts.^{11 w}
 Have
 prices been raised by a bad harvest ? The
 Council
 will issue a solemn denunciation of the
 covetousness
 of speculators, " in conditions more like
 to wolves
 or cormorants than to natural men,"^M who
 take
 advantage of the dearth to exploit public
 necessities;
 will instruct the Commissioners of Grain
 and Victuab
 to suspend exports ; and will order justices
 to inspect
 barns, ration supplies, and compel
 farmers to sell
 surplus stocks at a fixed price. Does the
 collapse of
 the continental market threaten distress in
 the textile
 |districts ? The Council will put pressure
 on clothiers
 [to find work for the operatives, " this
 being the rule
 by which the wool-grower, the clothier and
 merchant
 must be governed, that whosoever had a
 part of the
 gaine in profitable times . . . must now, in
 the decay
 of trade . . . beare a part of the publicke
 losses, as
 may best conduce to the good of the
 publicke and
 the maintenance of the generall trade.""
 Has the
 value of sterling fallen on the Antwerp
 market ? The
 Council will consider pegging the exchanges,
 and will
 even attempt to nationalize foreign
 exchange business
 by prohibiting private transactions
 altogether."
 Are local authorities negligent in the
 administration
 of the Poor Law ? The Council, which
 insists on
 regular reports as to the punishment of

vagrants, the
relief of the impotent, and the steps taken to
provide
materials on which to employ the able-
bodied, inundates
them with exhortations to mend their ways
and with
threats of severer proceedings if they fail.
Are tradesmen
in difficulties? The Council, which keeps
sufficiently
in touch with business conditions to know
when the
difficulties of borrowers threaten a crisis,
endeavours
to exercise a moderating influence, by making
an example
of persons guilty of flagrant extortion, or by
inducing
the parties to accept a compromise. A
mortgagee
accused of " hard and unchristianly dealing "
is ordered
to restore the land which he has seized, or
to appear